

**Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council
Legislative and Communications Standing Committee
Minutes
December 9, 2005**

Present: Kathy Anderson, Carrie Witte, Marjorie Kostelnick, Kim Peterson Chase, Mark Smith, Lea Ann Johnson

Guests: Dave Schinzel from Senator Howard's office

Legislative Information Reports

Terry indicated that Derek Weimer, chairperson of the committee wasn't able to be at today's meeting. Derek approved the agenda and the Medicaid Reform Update and Federal Budget update.

Terry provided the committee with a written report on the Medicaid Reform Advisory Task Force recommendations. Terry pointed out the recommendations that have specific implications for early childhood. Recommendation 1.5b indicates that parents of some children with disabilities who are covered by the Katie Becket, the Aged and Disabled Waiver Program and the Children's Developmental Disabilities Waiver should pay part of the cost for Medicaid when their income exceeds 150% of poverty.

Terry also pointed out that Recommendation 4.1a that recommends a nurse home visitation program be established for high-risk pregnant teens.

Terry passed out an information report on the Federal Budget that continues to cut Medicaid and Food Stamps. Terry indicated that the House and Senate should be meeting in conference at any minute and believes that many of the cuts proposed will be passed.

Terry also provided the committee with updates on the Nebraska Unicameral Legislative Resolutions that they asked her to track.

Marjorie Kostelnick noted that none of the Legislative Resolutions being followed addressed education and wondered if the committee also followed education bills. Terry indicated that the resolutions that were followed were based upon committee interest. Terry also indicated that she couldn't recall many proposed Legislative Resolutions that addressed education.

Finally Terry provided the committee with H. R. 4022 introduced by Representative Ross in Arkansas. The bill would require insurance companies to offer craniofacial surgery as part of group plans. Terry indicated that Paul Matson has asked the committee to inform itself on the bill.

Next Steps

Terry indicated that she will be putting together a listing of any bills that may impact early childhood and the focus of the Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council once the session starts. Members would like to meet by conference call early in the session since it is a short session. Terry will try to have information ready for a January 25, 2006 conference call.

Kim Chase Peterson suggested that Terry get roster books of the legislature and have them mailed to the Council. Terry agreed to see if they would provide the books to the Council.

Kathy Anderson asked Terry to see if she could find a listing of all of the Nebraska earmarks from the federal budget. Terry wasn't sure that she would be able to find a single list, but agreed to do some searching.

Next Meetings

Terry provided some proposed dates for the Standing Committee to meet in 2006. The dates were revised and now include:

January 25, 2006—conference call—12:30 PM Central Time

February 10, 2006—ECICC meeting

March 10, 2006—Conference call—12:30 PM Central Time

April 12, 2006—Conference call—12:30 PM Central Time

May 19, 2006 ECICC meeting

Terry will email Derek to confirm that the dates for him.